

Letter of Permission

(Counseling Sessions at Merit Academy)

Lindsey Freestone/Scott Jenkins may talk to my child about his/her personal wellbeing and academic progress in counseling sessions while attending Merit Academy.

For counseling that extends beyond two sessions in a school year or that is planned on a regular basis, parent/guardian permission is to be obtained.

I understand that school counseling services are short-term services aimed at the more effective education and socialization of my child within the school community. **I understand that these services are not intended as a substitute for diagnosis or treatment for any mental health disorder. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to determine whether additional or different services are necessary, and whether to seek them for my child.**

In order to build trust with the child, the school counselor will keep information confidential, with some possible exceptions. Because these services are provided to minor children in the school setting, I understand that the school counselor may share information with parents/guardians, the child's teacher, and/or administrators or school personnel who work with the child on a need to know basis, so that we may better assist the child as a team. The counselor is also required by law to share information with parents or others in the event the child is in danger of harm to self or others. The counselor will make the child aware of these limits to confidentiality and will inform the child when sharing information with others. If you would like the counselor to share information with a third party, such as a community counselor, psychiatrist, social services worker, or pediatrician, you will need to sign an additional release of information form.

During the course of our discussion(s) students may discuss their personal views and experiences as appropriate.

Individuals who may have access to protected student information disclosed by student during our session(s):

1. Jesse Meeks (Director)
2. Lindsey Freestone/Scott Jenkins (School Counselor)

I encourage you to contact me whenever you have questions or concerns.

Please understand that your child cannot participate in these conversations/ discussions unless and until this signed letter of permission is returned to me.

I give permission for my child _____ to participate in the anticipated discussion(s) as described above.

Parent Signature

Date

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

*Section 53A-13-302, Utah Code, provides that parents must be notified at least two weeks prior to a school activity or planned discussion which is intended to cause a student to reveal private information.